

September 24, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen D. Dingbaum  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits  
Office of the Inspector General

FROM: Martin J. Virgilio */RA Cynthia A. Carpenter for/*  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,  
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE AUDIT REPORT, "SUMMARY REPORT AND  
PERSPECTIVES ON BYPRODUCT MATERIAL SECURITY AND  
CONTROL (OIG-07-A-12)"

I am responding to your memorandum of March 30, 2007, by providing U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's response to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit Report, "Summary Report and Perspectives on Byproduct Material Security and Control (OIG-07-A-12)." We appreciate OIG's revisions to the report to accommodate some of our earlier verbal and written comments. With respect to your specific recommendation, I submit the following:

Recommendation 1

Convene an independent panel of experts external to the agency to identify agency vulnerabilities concerning NRC's material licensing and tracking programs and validate the agency's ongoing byproduct material security efforts.

Response

Agree. As part of NRC's continuous improvement practices, the NRC staff has developed an action plan to respond to each of the recommendations received from the OIG, U.S. Government Accountability Office, and the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to improve byproduct material security. The plan was provided to the Commission on August 25, 2007, in SECY-07-0147, "Response to U.S. Government Accountability Office Recommendations to Address Security Issues in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials Program" (ML072360070). SECY-07-0147 includes a recommendation for an independent, external review to identify potential weaknesses or security gaps in our processes (see Recommendation N-1) and is proposed to be completed by January 31, 2008.

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301-415-5422

S. Dingbaum

-2-

The staff's plan was approved by the Commission, with additional guidance, in the staff Requirements Memorandum to SECY-07-0147 dated September 19, 2007 (ML072620088).

cc: Chairman Klein  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
SECY

The staff's plan was approved by the Commission, with additional guidance, in the staff Requirements Memorandum to SECY-07-0147 dated September 19, 2007 (ML072620088).

cc: Chairman Klein  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
SECY

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